Claims

1. Masking means for masking of a longitudinally extended edge area of a vehicle body or an appliance housing during a coating procedure, in particular a paint or conservation process, wherein
the development is as longitudinal high-grade flexible extruded synthetic profiles with a continuous longitudinal cavity and a slot in the outer contour leading into the cavity, whose boundary edges are elastically pre-tensioned to each other.

2. Masking means according to claim 1,
wherein
the synthetic profile design is in the cross-section essentially circular, elliptical, oval or slanted oval and as synthetic pipe with longitudinally alternating first portions of greater rigidity and lower elasticity and second portions of lower rigidity and greater elasticity.

3. Masking means according to claim 2,
wherein
the synthetic profile design is formed, via a rotation extrusion procedure, with longitudinally alternating first portions of greater rigidity and lower elasticity and second portions of lower rigidity and greater elasticity.

4. Masking means according to claims 1 to 3,
wherein
the synthetic profile in the slot area is essentially retracted V or U-shaped such that it automatically aligns itself on the longitudinally extended edge area when slid onto it.

5. Masking means according to claim 1,
wherein
longitudinally equidistant incisions are provided that are diagonal to the long axis, which cut through the profile side at the large part of the level of the synthetic profile, for the formation of profile tabs joined together opposite the slot that tilt against each other but still essentially cover each other in areas of tight bending.

6. Masking means according to one of the claims 1 or 5,
wherein
the synthetic profile in the cross-section essentially has a U-shape, in particular with a "U" with side pieces of different lengths.

7. Masking means according to claim 6,
wherein
the synthetic profile in cross-section has the form of a slanted "U" with a cavity expanding on the basis of the "U" for the elastically-arrested attachment on the edge area with different material thicknesses.

8. Masking means according to one of the claims 1 or 5 to 7,
wherein
the wall of the synthetic profile exhibits continuous, closed cavities extending in longitudinal direction, for increasing the flexibility and decreasing the amount of material used.

9. Masking means according to one of the above claims,
wherein
the cavity has a maximum width in the range of 3 to 12 mm and the continuous slot has a minimum free width of less than 1 mm, especially of 0.2 mm or less, for the elastically-arrested

attachment on an edge area, particularly body/housing flange, with a minimum material thickness of roughly 1 mm and a maximum material thickness within the range of 2.5 to 6 mm.

10. Masking means according to one of the above claims, wherein the design is with high-grade temperature-resistant plastic, which maintains the masking means properties that are essential to functioning at least 175°C for at least 25 min and also at least 155°C for at least 75 min.

11. Masking means according to one of the above claims, wherein reinforcement is via filler material with a quantity between 0.1% and 40%.

12. Masking means according to claim 11, wherein the design is with a thermoplastic elastomer or polyamide.

13. Masking means according to claim 11, wherein a considerable quantity, in particular more than 75% and more particularly 90%, is of recycled plastic.

14. Masking arrangement with a masking means according to one of the above claims and a bracket attachable to the masking means for improved adhesion on the edge area.

15. Masking arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the bracket exhibits a contact and holding section in its inner

contour on the outer contour of the masking means as well as handling section connected with this, particularly via a web.

16. Masking arrangement according to claim 14,
wherein
the contact and holding section and/or the handling section of the bracket essentially exhibits circular, elliptical or oval cross-section.

17. Coating process for coating a coating substrate, in particular a vehicle body or an aircraft fuselage or ship's hull or an appliance housing having a free edge area, with a coating means via a coating-spray stream or under a coating atmosphere, under coverage of the edge area,
wherein
the edge area is covered with a masking means according to one of the above claims.

18. Coating process according to claim 17,
wherein
the process is embodied as a procedure for the painting of a dip primer coated vehicle body or an appliance housing via a paint-spray stream.

19. Coating process according to claim 17,
wherein
the process is embodied as a process, in particular which is directly carried out after a painting process, for the conservation of a vehicle body or appliance housing, in particular an automobile body or an aircraft fuselage or ship's hull, via a conservation-spray stream.

20. Coating process according to claim 17,
wherein
the process is embodied as a vacuum coating process, in particular vacuum sputter or sputter processes, for creation of a thin protective or functional coating on the coating substrate.